

Please amend the paragraph at page 22, lines 31-33 to read as follows:

C3  
- Ex 11: a silanized styrene/acrylic ester copolymer sold by Wacker under the reference VINNAPAS LL6030 (film-forming temperature of 24°C);

Please amend the paragraph at page 22, lines 34-37 to read as follows:

C4  
- Ex 12: a vinyl chloride/ethylene copolymer sold by Wacker under the reference VINNOL CE 752 (film-forming temperature of 7°C). This is a hydrophobic latex.

### IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims to read as follows:

C5  
1. (Amended) A method of improving the mechanical strength after ageing of an insulation product comprising mineral wool, comprising:  
applying a size comprising a thermosetting resin to the mineral wool,  
applying a hydrophilic latex to the mineral wool, then  
thermally curing the size,  
wherein the hydrophilic latex comprises a dispersion or emulsion of homopolymer or copolymer prepared from one or more monomers each having at least one hydrophilic functional group selected from the group consisting of hydroxyl, carboxyl and ester, or  
the hydrophilic latex comprises a dispersion or emulsion of a homopolymer or copolymer and a protective colloid having hydrophilic functional groups.

2. (Amended) The method according to Claim 1, wherein the mineral wool dissolves in a physiological medium.

C6  
5. (Amended) The method according to Claim 1, wherein the homopolymer or copolymer is selected from the group consisting of vinyl polymers, vinyl acetate homopolymers or copolymers, acrylic polymers and carboxylic acid containing polymers.

C7  
6. (Amended) The method according to Claim 5, wherein the homopolymer or copolymer is selected from the group consisting of a polyvinyl acetate homopolymer, a vinyl acetate/ (meth) acrylic acid or ester copolymer, a vinyl acetate/maleic ester copolymer, a vinyl acetate/olefin copolymer, a vinyl acetate/vinyl chloride copolymer, a silanized acrylonitrile/acrylic ester, and a silanized styrene/acrylic acid or ester copolymer.

C8  
7. (Amended) The method according to Claim 1, wherein the latex is an aqueous dispersion or emulsion of a homopolymer or copolymer and a protective colloid having hydrophilic functional groups.

C9  
8. (Amended) The method according to Claim 7, wherein the latex comprises a copolymer and a protective colloid, and the copolymer is selected from the group consisting of a silanized or non-silanized vinyl chloride/ethylene copolymer and a silanized or non-silanized vinyl chloride/vinyl laurate/ethylene terpolymer.

9. (Amended) The method according to Claim 1, wherein the latex further comprises a water-repellent agent.

10. (Amended) The method according to Claim 1, wherein the homopolymer or copolymer has a glass transition temperature  $T_g$  of less than 80°C.

C10  
11. (Amended) The method according to Claim 1, wherein the homopolymer or copolymer has a glass transition temperature  $T_g$  of greater than -5°C.

12. (Amended) The method according to Claim 1, wherein after said curing, the solids content of the hydrophilic latex is less than 5% by weight with respect to the weight of mineral wool.

13. (Amended) The method according to Claim 1, wherein the hydrophilic latex is mixed with the size before application to the mineral wool.

14. (Amended) The method according to Claim 1, wherein the hydrophilic latex is applied to the mineral wool separately from the size.

15. (Amended) An insulation product prepared by applying a size comprising a thermosetting resin to a mineral wool, applying a hydrophilic latex to the mineral wool, then thermally curing the size,

wherein the hydrophilic latex comprises a dispersion or emulsion of homopolymer or copolymer prepared from one or more monomers each having at least one hydrophilic

functional group selected from the group consisting of hydroxyl, carboxyl and ester, or

the hydrophilic latex comprises a dispersion or emulsion of a homopolymer or copolymer and a protective colloid having hydrophilic functional groups.

16. (Amended) The insulation product according to Claim 15, wherein the mineral wool comprises glass or rock wool which dissolves in a physiological medium.

17. (Amended) The insulation product according to Claim 16, wherein the mineral wool dissolves in a saline solution simulating a physiological medium at a rate of at least 30 ng/cm<sup>2</sup> per hour, measured at pH 4.5, and at a rate of at least 30 ng/cm<sup>2</sup> per hour, measured at pH 7.5.

18. (Amended) The insulation product according to Claim 15, wherein the insulation product has a density of at least 30 kg/m<sup>3</sup>.

19. (Amended) The insulation product of Claim 15, wherein the insulation product is a thermal and/or acoustic insulation product.

21. (Amended) A sizing composition comprising a thermosetting resin and a hydrophilic latex,

wherein the hydrophilic latex comprises a dispersion or emulsion of homopolymer or copolymer prepared from one or more monomers each having at least one hydrophilic

functional group selected from the group consisting of hydroxyl, carboxyl and ester, or

the hydrophilic latex comprises a dispersion or emulsion of a homopolymer or copolymer and a protective colloid having hydrophilic functional groups.

Please cancel Claims 3, 4 and 20 without prejudice.

Please add the following new claims:

22. (New) The method of Claim 9, wherein the water repellent agent is a silicone or a fluorinated compound.

23. (New) The method of Claim 10, wherein the homopolymer or copolymer has a glass transition temperature  $T_g$  of less than 50°C.

24. (New) The method of Claim 11, wherein the homopolymer or copolymer has a glass transition temperature  $T_g$  of greater than 0°C.

25. (New) The method of Claim 12, wherein the solids content of the hydrophilic latex is about 0.01 to 5% by weight with respect to the weight of the mineral wool.

26. (New) The method of Claim 1, wherein the thermosetting resin is a phenolic resin.

27. (New) The insulation product of Claim 15, wherein the thermosetting resin is a phenolic resin.

28. (New) The insulation product of Claim 18, wherein the density is at least 80 kg/m<sup>3</sup>.

29. (New) A method of improving the mechanical strength after ageing of an insulation product comprising mineral wool, comprising:

applying a size comprising a thermosetting resin to the mineral wool,

applying a hydrophilic latex to the mineral wool, then

thermally curing the size,

wherein the mineral wool dissolves in a physiological medium and comprises 8 to 25% by weight of at least one alkali metal oxide.

30. (New) An insulation product prepared by applying a size comprising a thermosetting resin to a mineral wool, applying a hydrophilic latex to the mineral wool, then thermally curing the size,

wherein the mineral wool dissolves in a physiological medium and comprises 8 to 25% by weight of at least one alkali metal oxide.

31. (New) The method of Claim 2, wherein the mineral wool comprises 8 to 25% by weight of at least one alkali metal oxide.

32. (New) The method of Claim 7, wherein the protective colloid comprises polyvinyl alcohol or cellulose.

33. (New) The insulation product of Claim 17, wherein the mineral wool dissolves in a saline solution simulating a physiological medium at a rate of at least 40 ng/cm<sup>2</sup> per hour, measured at pH 4.5, and at a rate of at least 40 ng/cm<sup>2</sup> per hour, measured at pH 7.5.

34. (New) The insulation product of Claim 17, wherein the mineral wool dissolves in a saline solution simulating a physiological medium at a rate of at least 50 ng/cm<sup>2</sup> per hour, measured at pH 4.5, and at a rate of at least 50 ng/cm<sup>2</sup> per hour, measured at pH 7.5.

35. (New) The insulation product according to Claim 15, wherein the insulation product has a density of at least 50 kg/m<sup>3</sup>.

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IN THE ABSTRACT

Please amend the Abstract to read as follows: